



# Faith Lutheran Church

**We warmly greet members  
and visitors in Jesus' name**

## First Sunday in Lent

5 p.m., March 9, 2025



These 40 days called Lent are like no other.

It is our opportune time to return to the God who rescues, to receive the gifts of God's grace, to believe with the heart and confess with the mouth the wonder of God's love in Jesus, and to resist temptation at every turn.

This is no small pilgrimage on which we have just embarked.

It is a struggle Jesus knew. It is a struggle Jesus shares.  
The nearness of the Lord, in bread and wine, water and word,  
will uphold and sustain us.

**Welcome to Worship at Faith Lutheran Church**

**Gathered faithfully to love and serve God and all others**

7750 Beneva Road, Sarasota, FL, 34238 | 941-924-4664 | [www.faithlutheransrq.com](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com)

**All the baptized are invited to the celebration of Holy Communion, trusting that Christ is present in this sacrament for the forgiveness of our sin and the strengthening of our faith.**

**Ministers**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

**Assisting Minister**

Deacon Scott Rice

**Director of Music/Organist**

Andi Zdrava

**Greeters & Ushers**

Jerry Cooper, Eloise Dettmer, Ashley Garlitz, Dottie Gustavson, Grace Kaarre, Alf Kirkeeng, Gail Lidinsky, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Deacon Scott Rice, Jane Sanks, Joan Searles, Dave Wardach

**Media Team**

Kelly Ashlock, Greg Cooper, Kevin Fewell, Andrea & Sergio Gamboa, Mark Greenwood

**Altar Guild**

Linda Fewell, Dottie Gustavson, Carole Inkrott, Judy Millard, Mark Nelson, Jan Phillips, Steve & Peggy Ragan

**Congregation Council**

Ann Greenwood, president; Joan Searles, vice president; Lauren Wardach, secretary; Anita Wooton, treasurer; Jane Sanks, assistant treasurer; Jerry Cooper; Quyen Dang; Julianne Geyser; Mark Nelson; Peggy Ragan; Deacon Scott Rice

\* \* \* \* \*

**Pastor**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

**Assistant to the Pastor**

Rev. Larry Wright

**Retired Pastors in Residence**

Rev. John Hilficker  
Rev. Marianne Powrie  
Rev. John Spittal

**Interim Executive Assistant**

Linda Fewell

- Noted throughout the service - P: Presiding Minister    L: Lector    **C: Congregation**
- Faith has a T-Coil-enabled hearing loop for those whose hearing aid(s) also are enabled.
- Smile! Faith worship services are live-streamed and recorded.

## WELCOME

### SONG: Come, Now Is the Time To Worship

#### *Chorus*

Come, now is the time to worship.  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come just as you are to worship.  
Come just as you are before your God.  
Come.

#### *Verse 1*

One day every tongue  
Will confess You are God.  
One day every knee will bow.  
Still the greatest treasure remains  
For those who gladly choose You now.

#### *Chorus*

Come, now is the time to worship.  
Come, now is the time to give your heart.  
Come just as you are to worship.  
Come just as you are before your God.  
Come.

#### *Verse 2*

Willingly we choose to surrender our lives.  
Willingly our knees will bow.  
With all our heart, soul, mind and strength  
We gladly choose You now.

#### *Ending*

Come, just as you are, come.

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## CONFESSiON AND FORGIVENESS

P: Blessed be the holy Trinity, + one God, who forgives all our sin, whose mercy endures forever.

**C: Amen.**

P: Let us return to God, confessing our sin in the assurance of God's abiding love.

*(pause for reflection)*

Most merciful God,

**C: we confess that we are captive to sin and cannot free ourselves. We have sinned against you in thought, word, and deed, by what we have done and by what we have left undone. We have not loved you with our whole heart; we have not loved our neighbors as ourselves. For the sake of your Son, Jesus Christ, have mercy on us. Forgive us, renew us, and lead us, so that we may delight in your will and walk in your ways, to the glory of your holy name. Amen.**

P: Beloved in Christ,

God's arms are always stretched open wide to welcome the wandering ones home.

In  $\dagger$  Christ your sins are forgiven.

You have a place in God's house forever.

**C: Amen.**

## **SONG: Here I Am To Worship**

### *Verse 1*

Light of the world, you stepped down into darkness,  
Opened my eyes, let me see  
beauty that made this heart adore You,  
Hope of a life spent with You.

### *Chorus*

So here I am to worship.  
Here I am to bow down.  
Here I am to say that You're my God,  
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy,  
Altogether wonderful to me.

### *Verse 2*

King of all days, Oh so highly exalted,  
Glorious in heaven above.  
Humbly You came to the earth You created,  
All for love's sake became poor.

### *Chorus*

So here I am to worship.  
Here I am to bow down.  
Here I am to say that You're my God,  
And You're altogether lovely, altogether worthy  
Altogether wonderful to me.

## PRAYER OF THE DAY

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Let us pray. O Lord God, you led your people through the wilderness and brought them to the promised land. Guide us now, so that, following your Son, we may walk safely through the wilderness of this world toward the life you alone can give, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

**C: Amen.**

## FIRST READING: Deuteronomy 26:1-11

L: A reading from Deuteronomy.

<sup>1</sup> When you have come into the land that the Lord your God is giving you as an inheritance to possess, and you possess it, and settle in it, <sup>2</sup> you shall take some of the first of all the fruit of the ground, which you harvest from the land that the Lord your God is giving you, and you shall put it in a basket and go to the place that the Lord your God will choose as a dwelling for his name. <sup>3</sup> You shall go to the priest who is in office at that time, and say to him, “Today I declare to the Lord your God that I have come into the land that the Lord swore to our ancestors to give us.”

<sup>4</sup> When the priest takes the basket from your hand and sets it down before the altar of the Lord your God, <sup>5</sup> you shall make this response before the Lord your God: “A wandering Aramean was my ancestor; he went down into Egypt and lived there as an alien, few in number, and there he became a great nation, mighty and populous. <sup>6</sup> When the Egyptians treated us harshly and afflicted us, by imposing hard labor on us, <sup>7</sup> we cried to the Lord, the God of our ancestors; the Lord heard our voice and saw our affliction, our toil, and our oppression.

<sup>8</sup> The Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, with a terrifying display of power, and with signs and wonders; <sup>9</sup> and he brought us into this place and gave us this land, a land flowing with milk and honey. <sup>10</sup> So now I bring the first of the fruit of the ground that you, O Lord, have given me.” You shall set it down before the Lord your God and bow down before the Lord your God.

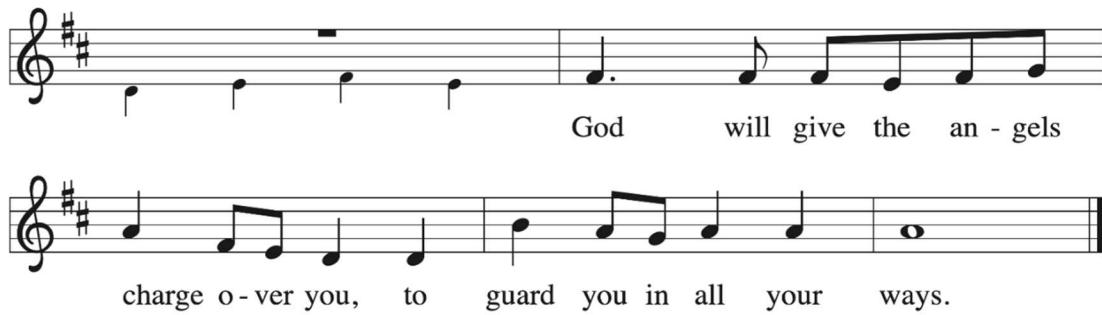
<sup>11</sup> Then you, together with the Levites and the aliens who reside among you, shall celebrate with all the bounty that the Lord your God has given to you and to your house.

Word of God, Word of Life.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

## PSALM REFRAIN: Psalm 91:11

*To begin, the organist plays the refrain once, the cantor sings it once and then we all sing it together.*



God will give the an - gels  
charge o - ver you, to guard you in all your ways.

Psalm 91:11

Psalm refrain reproduced from *Psalter for Worship Year C* © 2006 Augsburg Fortress.  
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## PSALMODY: Psalm 91:1-2, 9-16

L: <sup>1</sup>You who dwell in the shelter of the Most High,  
    who abide in the shadow of the Almighty—  
<sup>2</sup>you will say to the Lord, “My refuge and my stronghold,  
    my God in whom I put my trust.”

### C: Refrain

L: <sup>9</sup>Because you have made the Lord your refuge,  
    and the Most High your habitation,  
<sup>10</sup>no evil will befall you,  
    nor shall affliction come near your dwelling.  
<sup>11</sup>For God will give the angels charge over you,  
    to guard you in all your ways.  
<sup>12</sup>Upon their hands they will bear you up,  
    lest you strike your foot against a stone.

### C: Refrain

L: <sup>13</sup>You will tread upon the lion cub and viper;  
    you will trample down the lion and the serpent.  
<sup>14</sup>I will deliver those who cling to me;  
    I will uphold them, because they know my name.  
<sup>15</sup>They will call me, and I will answer them;  
    I will be with them in trouble; I will rescue and honor them.  
<sup>16</sup>With long life will I satisfy them,  
    and show them my salvation.

### C: Refrain

## **SONG: In Christ Alone**

### *Verse 1*

In Christ alone my hope is found. He is my light, my strength, my song,  
This Cornerstone, this solid Ground, firm through the fiercest drought and storm.  
What heights of love, what depths of peace  
When fears are stilled, when strivings cease.  
My Comforter, my All in All, here in the love of Christ I stand.

### *Verse 2*

In Christ alone who took on flesh, fullness of God in helpless babe,  
This gift of love and righteousness scorned by the ones He came to save.  
Til on that cross as Jesus died the wrath of God was satisfied,  
For every sin on Him was laid here in the death of Christ I live.

### *Verse 3*

There in the ground His body lay, light of the world by darkness slain.  
Then bursting forth in glorious day up from the grave He rose again.  
And as He stands in victory sin's curse has lost its grip on me,  
For I am His and He is mine, bought with the precious blood of Christ.

### *Verse 4*

No guilt in life, no fear in death - This is the power of Christ in me.  
From life's first cry to final breath Jesus commands my destiny.  
No power of hell, no scheme of man can ever pluck me from His hand.  
Til He returns or calls me home here in the power of Christ I'll stand.

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## *WE STAND*

## **GOSPEL: Luke 4:1-13**

**P:** The holy gospel according to St. Luke.

**C: Glory to you, O Lord.**

**P:** <sup>1</sup>Jesus, full of the Holy Spirit, returned from the Jordan and was led by the Spirit in the wilderness, <sup>2</sup>where for forty days he was tempted by the devil. He ate nothing at all during those days, and when they were over, he was famished. <sup>3</sup>The devil said to him, “If you are the Son of God, command this stone to become a loaf of bread.” <sup>4</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘One does not live by bread alone.’” <sup>5</sup>Then the devil led him up and showed him in an instant all the kingdoms of the world. <sup>6</sup>And the devil said to him, “To you I will give their glory and all this authority; for it has been given over to me, and I give it to anyone I please. <sup>7</sup>If you, then, will worship me, it will all be yours.” <sup>8</sup>Jesus answered him, “It is written, ‘Worship the Lord your God, and serve only him.’” <sup>9</sup>Then the devil took him to Jerusalem, and placed him on the pinnacle of the temple, saying to him, “If you

are the Son of God, throw yourself down from here,<sup>10</sup> for it is written, ‘He will command his angels concerning you, to protect you,’<sup>11</sup> and ‘On their hands they will bear you up so that you will not dash your foot against a stone.’”<sup>12</sup> Jesus answered him, “It is said, ‘Do not put the Lord your God to the test.’”<sup>13</sup> When the devil had finished every test, he departed from him until an opportune time.

The gospel of the Lord.

**C: Praise to you, O Christ.**

**MESSAGE**

Rev. Eric Olaf Olsen

**HYMN OF THE DAY**

**ELW 321**

**Eternal Lord of Love, Behold Your Church**  
*We sing together*

1 E - ter - nal Lord of love, be - hold your church  
2 So dai - ly dy - ing to the way of self,  
3 If dead in you, so in you we a - rise,  
  
walk - ing once more the pil - grim way of Lent,  
so dai - ly liv - ing in your way of love,  
you the first - born of all the faith - ful dead;  
  
led by your cloud by day, by night your fire,  
we walk the road, Lord Je - sus, that you trod,  
and as through ston - y ground the green shoots break,  
  
moved by your love and toward your pres - ence bent:  
know - ing our - selves bap - tized in - to your death:  
glo - rious in spring - time dress of leaf and flow'r,  
  
far off yet here— the goal of all de - sire.  
so we are dead and live with you in God.  
so in - to life and glo - ry shall we wake.

Text: Thomas H. Cain, 1931–2003

Music: OLD 124TH, *Trente quatre pseaumes de David*, Geneva, 1551

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## PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

P: Led by the Spirit, let us turn to God in prayer for the church, the world and all those in need.

L: Gracious God, speak your word anew among your church. Strengthen it to withstand the temptation to turn inward in fear or complacency. Embolden church institutions to turn from self-preservation toward the self-giving love of Jesus. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: Mothering God, speak the word of life into wilderness places and fertile fields. Grant wisdom to your people, that we may quell the urge to strip lands of their resources and, instead, preserve first fruits for future generations. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: Almighty God, speak a word of wisdom to people in positions of power: mayors, councils, tribal leaders, legislators, judges, juries, presidents and monarchs. Help them discern your voice and follow your guidance, resisting the temptations of the evil one. We also pray for an enduring, just peace in Israel, Gaza, Russia, Ukraine and all areas rocked by unrest. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: Steadfast God, speak words of courage to your people in the wilderness. Protect migrants and refugees on perilous journeys, that they may find safe refuge and a portion in the bounty you have given humanity to share. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: Loving God, speak gently to all who are alone. Bless lay ministers, home communion teams and others who attend to those who are overlooked, vulnerable or lonely, that all may find belonging in your love. We pray for all who are ill or struggling in any way, especially those on our prayer list and those we name before you now, aloud or in our hearts. (pause) God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

L: Living God, we give thanks for all the faithful who have crossed the threshold from death to life, especially Warren Russell. Guide us who are living to learn from their wisdom and follow their example. God, in your mercy,

**C: receive our prayer.**

*Here other intercessions may be offered.*

P: Receive the prayers of your people and draw all things together in your love, in the name of Jesus, who leads us from death to life.

**C: Amen.**

## OFFERTORY



*There is an offering plate at the entrance of the sanctuary. You also can give online by scanning the QR Code printed here or via the Online Giving page at [faithlutheransrq.com](http://faithlutheransrq.com). We deeply appreciate your support of Faith Lutheran's ministries.*

### **SONG: This I Believe (The Creed)**

#### *Verse 1*

Our Father everlasting,  
The all-creating One,  
God Almighty,  
Through Your Holy Spirit  
Conceiving Christ the Son,  
Jesus our Savior.

#### *Chorus 1*

I believe in God our Father.  
I believe in Christ the Son.  
I believe in the Holy Spirit.  
Our God is three in One.  
I believe in the resurrection,  
That we will rise again,  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

#### *Verse 2*

Our judge and our defender  
Suffered and crucified,  
Forgiveness is in You.  
Descended into darkness,  
You rose in glorious life  
Forever seated high.

#### *Chorus 2*

I believe in life eternal.  
I believe in the virgin birth.  
I believe in the saints' communion  
And in Your holy Church.  
I believe in the resurrection when Jesus comes again  
For I believe in the Name of Jesus.

## **OFFERING PRAYER**

P: Let us pray. Gracious Provider, you set your immense treasures among us, opening your heart to the world. As we prepare to feast on your bountiful love, deepen our commitment to sharing those treasures with others, through our Savior, Jesus Christ.

**C: Amen.**

## **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

P: The Lord be with you.

**C: And also with you.**

P: Lift up your hearts.

**C: We lift them to the Lord.**

P: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

**C: It is right to give our thanks and praise.**

## **WORDS OF INSTITUTION**

### **LORD'S PRAYER**

P: Lord, remember us in your kingdom and teach us to pray.

**C: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name,  
thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.  
Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses,  
as we forgive those who trespass against us;  
and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.  
For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory,  
forever and ever. Amen.**

## **INVITATION TO COMMUNION**

P: All who are hungry, come! The feast of grace is spread, and all are welcome at the Lord's Table.

## **DISTRIBUTION OF HOLY COMMUNION**

### **TABLE BLESSING**

P: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in God's grace.

**C: Amen.**

## **PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION**

P: Let us pray. Generous Host, you have shared your feast with us and made us new. Send us now to set tables of love and grace in our communities, that your liberating love might nourish the world into freedom, in the name of the crucified one, Jesus Christ our Lord.

**C: Amen.**

## **SONG: The Cross**

### *Verse 1*

You've been trying hard to bear  
The weight of all your shame.  
And if there's a God up there  
You're sure He forgot your name.  
When your steps are getting heavy  
And hope looks all but lost,  
Just bring it all to the cross.

### *Chorus*

Come and see a Savior's love  
That would die to make you new.  
Nothing you have ever done  
Can change what mercy's done for you.  
And if you ever wonder  
If you're worth so great a cost,  
Look up and see the cross.

### *Verse 2*

Who told you grace can't reach  
The messed up ones like you?  
Has the devil made you believe  
The lies he tells are true?  
When you're sure that you're the one  
Who's wandered too far off,  
It's not too late - Just come home to the cross.

### *Chorus*

Come and see a Savior's love  
That would die to make you new.  
Nothing you have ever done  
Can change what mercy's done for you.  
And if you ever wonder  
If you're worth so great a cost,  
Look up and see the cross.

### *Verse 3*

Everybody's got a list at least a mile long  
Of every scar and every sin from everywhere that we've gone wrong.  
But there's reason for rejoicing, and the reason is because  
That list was nailed to the cross.

## *Chorus*

Come and see a Savior's love  
That would die to make you new.  
Nothing you have ever done  
Can change what mercy's done for you.  
And if you ever wonder  
If you're worth so great a cost,  
Look up and see the cross.

Anne Wilson, Jeff Pardo, Jonathan Smith, Matthew West CCLI Song #7233758 © BrentHood Music; Capitol CMG Paragon; Jacobs Story Music; Meaux Mercy; Be Essential Songs; Cashagamble Jet Music; My Story Your Glory Music For use solely with the SongSelect® Terms of Use. All rights reserved. www.ccli.com CCLI License #22316890

## **DISMISSAL**

**P:** Go in peace. Care for others as God cares for you.

**C: Thanks be to God.**

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## **POSTLUDE**

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## **Welcome, Visitors!**

We are so glad you have joined us for worship. Please let us know that you visited by signing our guestbook and/or filling out a Visitor Card located on the table near the entrance. Kindly give the card to an usher or place it in the offering plate.

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## ***Participate in Bread for the World Offering of Letters***

Together, we can urge our elected representatives to fully fund crucial nutrition programs for women and children by participating in the 2025 Bread for the World Offering of Letters. If you have not already written a letter, take home a copy of the sample letter from the counter in fellowship hall, personalize it with information that will make it even more powerful, and address your letter to your congressman (likely either Rep. Greg Stuebe or Rep. Vern Buchanan).

No need to add postage. Instead, **return your letter to Faith by no later than Thursday, March 13**. A representative from the local Bread for the World team will hand deliver the letters to our congressmen. You also can write your letter today in fellowship hall. Copies of the sample letter and blank paper are available for your use.

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# ***Our Journey Through Lent to Easter Begins This Week***

## **Lenten Wednesdays: March 12, 19 and 26, and April 2 and 9**

Noon Midweek Lenten Worship followed by a common meal, sanctuary/fellowship hall

## **Palm Sunday, April 13**

8 a.m. Celebration Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary  
10:15 a.m. Celebration Worship with Holy Communion and choir, sanctuary  
5 p.m. Contemporary Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary

## **Maundy Thursday, April 17**

7 p.m. Worship with Holy Communion, sanctuary

## **Good Friday, April 18**

7 a.m. Multi-Denominational Stations of the Cross, park at Church of the Redeemer, 222 S. Palm Ave.; take a free trolley to the starting location  
2 p.m. Stations of the Cross, sanctuary  
7 p.m. Tenebrae Worship, sanctuary

## **Holy Saturday, April 19**

7:30 p.m. Easter Vigil Part One, parking lot

## **Easter Sunday, April 20**

7 a.m. Easter Vigil Part Two, Memorial Garden  
9 a.m. Easter Breakfast and Egg Hunt, fellowship hall and playground  
10:15 a.m. Easter Celebration Worship with Holy Communion and choir, sanctuary

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## ***In Memoriam: Warren Russell***

Warren Russell will be interred tomorrow following a graveside service in the Sarasota National Cemetery. Please keep his family and friends in your prayers.

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## ***Join in Prayer and Bible Study***

- **Adult Forum** meets between the two morning worship services in the conference room. Next week, the group will study Lesson 5, *Pentecost: God Changes His Address*, in the “Mission of Jesus” series.
- **Men of Faith** meet for breakfast and prayer at 8:30 a.m. Tuesdays at Skillets, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail.

- **G.I.F.T.S. (Growing in Faith Through Scripture) Women's Bible study** meets at 9:30 a.m. Tuesdays in the library to focus on "Leaning on Jesus: A Study of God's Strength."
- **The Prayer Support Group** meets at 10:30 a.m. Wednesdays in the chapel to pray for all in need, our community, nation and world, and to share Holy Communion. Can't be there in person? Join via Zoom, Meeting ID 871 4720 3661, Passcode 041291.
- **During Lent, the Bereavement Group meets at 1:30 p.m. Wednesdays** in the chapel. If you or a friend can use help bearing the burden of grief, this group is for you.
- **The Men's Group** meets at 10:30 a.m., Thursday, March 13, in the conference room for study and fellowship.
- **Women of Faith** meet for breakfast, prayer and camaraderie at 8:30 a.m., Monday, March 17, at Skillets, 8635 S. Tamiami Trail. Questions? See Pastor Marianne or email her, [pastorp2.0@gmail.com](mailto:pastorp2.0@gmail.com).

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## ***Worship to Go Needs You***

Worship to Go needs additional helpers! You can participate at:

- **10:45 a.m., Tuesday, March 11**, at Elancé, 3260 Lake Pointe Blvd., Tiffany Room.
- **1:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 18**, at Angels Senior Living, 5750 Honore Ave.
- **10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 25**, at Aravilla Sarasota, 3251 Proctor Road.

Volunteers will meet in the chapel and can carpool to the facility (30 minutes prior). To join in, contact Pastor Eric directly, 716-352-0055, or show up at the chapel. No experience necessary!

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## ***Move to the Music During Zumba Class***

Zumba begins at 6 p.m. Mondays in the Community Center (gym). All fitness levels are welcome! It is free for congregation members, and a voluntary donation from non-members is appreciated. Join in the fun!

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## ***Mary Circle Meets, Hosts, Packages Seeds, Requests Personal Care Donations and Invites You***

- **Mary Circle meets at noon, Tuesday, March 11, in fellowship hall.** All women of the church are invited! Bring your lunch; dessert is provided. The group will discuss plans for the Women of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in America (WELCA) Mid-Gulf Spring Gathering, which Faith will host.
- **Save the date for the WELCA Mid-Gulf Spring Gathering, Saturday, April 12, beginning at 9:30 a.m. at Faith.** It will be a day of fellowship, Bible study and a special presentation by Faith's own Al Ernst. Both continental breakfast and lunch will be served at a cost of only \$10. Plan to join us!

- During February, Faith volunteers packed 1,000 packages of tomato seeds that will be sent all over the U.S. and the world as part of the Hope Seeds program, which provides seeds so people in need can feed themselves. The next opportunity to help is at **10:30 a.m., Tuesday, March 25, in fellowship hall**. Come and try it out! Sign up on the narthex table so Hope Seeds will know how much material to provide.
- Mary Circle volunteers recently delivered Lutheran World Relief kits for shipping – now it's time to **start collecting personal-care kit items for next year! Please place nail clippers, combs, bath-size soap and adult-size toothbrushes in the bin in the narthex. Soap is the most-needed item.** A Thrivent grant will cover the cost of towels for the kits. If you are unable to shop, monetary contributions are welcome.

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### ***Donate Altar Flowers in Honor or in Memory***

Please consider donating altar flowers in honor of a special occasion, in memory of a loved one or to glorify God. The cost is \$30 for one vase or \$60 for two. Make checks payable to Faith Lutheran Church with "altar flowers" in the memo line. Check the altar flowers donation board in fellowship hall to see if your desired date is available. If not, choose an alternate date. **The next open date is April 6.** When you purchase altar flowers, your name and dedication appear in the bulletin on your selected Sunday.

To make a dedication:

- At church, complete an Altar Flowers envelope with payment, and place it in the offering plate. Indicate your wish to keep or donate the flowers on the donation board in fellowship hall.
- By mail, send payment with a note indicating your desired date and dedication, and if you want to keep the flowers or donate them.
- By email or phone, contact the church office with your desired date and dedication, and whether you want to keep or donate the flowers. Pay through the Altar Flowers option on the Online Giving page of the Faith website, [faithlutheransrq.com](http://faithlutheransrq.com).

Contact Joan Hirsch, 941-726-7885, with questions or specific requests about who or what organization should receive flowers that you purchased and choose to donate.

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### ***Daily Lenten Devotions and Prayers Continue***

To enrich our Lenten experience, the Faith Evangelism Ministry team is sharing daily devotions and prayers from Luther Seminary called "There in God's Garden." You will continue to receive a devotion via email from Faith each morning during Lent. Printed devotional booklets also are available on the table in the narthex for people who do not use email. During midweek Lenten lunches on Wednesdays, which will follow midweek worship, you will be invited into meaningful discussion based on the daily devotions.

The Evangelism Ministry team prays that the devotions and discussions will draw us closer as a congregation during our Lenten journey.

## ***Joy in Managing God's Blessings***

“You cannot serve God and money” (Matthew 6:24). The world sees money as life’s report card and source of all happiness and security. In contrast, we, as faithful stewards, see money as a means to provide for our needs, to help others and to further God’s kingdom. *Dear heavenly Father, help me to hold money loosely and to have a proper attitude toward it. Amen.*

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### ***Readers Club Meets March 31***

The Faith Readers Club meets at 2 p.m. on the final Monday of each month. The group will meet March 31 to discuss *How We Learn to be Brave: Decisive Moments in Life and Faith* by Mariann Budde, exploring thoughts of the Episcopal bishop of Washington, D.C. Come and join the conversation. All are welcome.

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### ***Faith's Prayer List Begins Anew: Use Email or Prayer Request Cards to Add To or Keep Someone on the List***

Today, the Faith Prayer List begins anew. To add someone to the list or to ensure that someone who had previously been on the list remains there:

- Email [officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com](mailto:officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com), or
- Complete a Prayer Request Card. The cards are found in the pews, on the tables at the back of the sanctuary and in the narthex. Place completed cards in the offering plate. You are welcome to use the back of a card for additional names.

It is a privilege and joy to pray for those in need, and all prayer requests are welcome. Names can remain on the list for as long as prayers are requested.

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# ***Worship and Service Calendar***

## **Sunday Worship Services**

8 a.m., 10:15 a.m. & 5 p.m. in person.  
Morning services live streamed and recorded at  
[www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service](http://www.faithlutheransrq.com/live-service)  
and at [facebook.com/faithlutheransrq](https://facebook.com/faithlutheransrq).

## **Sunday, March 2**

Online views	192
8 a.m. in person	44
10:15 a.m. in person	146
5 p.m. in person	17

## **Next Sunday, March 16**

Genesis 15:1-12, 17-28

*The covenant with Abram and his descendants.*

Psalm 27

*In the day of trouble, God will give me shelter  
(Ps. 27.5).*

Philippians 3:17–4:1

*Our citizenship is in heaven from where we  
expect a Savior.*

Luke 13:31-35

*I have desired to gather Jerusalem as a hen  
gathers her brood.*

## **This Week at Faith**

### **Monday, March 10**

10:30 a.m.	Graveside Service: Warren Russell Sarasota National Cemetery, 9810 State Road 72
6 p.m.	Zumba, community center

### **Tuesday, March 11**

8:30 a.m.	Men of Faith Breakfast, Skillets, 8635 S. Tamiami
9:30 a.m.	G.I.F.T.S. Women's Bible Study, library
10:15 a.m.	Worship to Go Prep, chapel
10:45 a.m.	Worship to Go, Elancé, 3260 Lake Pointe Blvd., Tiffany Room
12 p.m.	Mary Circle, fellowship hall
6 p.m.	Diversity Voices of Sarasota, choir room and sanctuary

### **Wednesday, March 12**

10:30 a.m.	Prayer Support Group, chapel
11:30 a.m.	Property Committee, conf. room
12 p.m.	Midweek Lenten Worship followed by a Common Meal, sanctuary/ fellowship hall
3:15 p.m.	Bereavement Group, chapel

### **Thursday, March 13**

9 a.m.	Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
10:30 a.m.	Men's Group, conf. room
4:30 p.m.	Food Pantry Prep, fellowship hall
5 p.m.	Food Pantry Distribution
6:30 p.m.	Voices of Faith, choir room

### **Friday, March 14**

8 a.m.	Jazzercise, community center
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### **Saturday, March 15**

8 a.m.	Jazzercise, community center
9 a.m.	Diakonia, conference room

**Contact officeadmin@faithlutheransrq.com:**

- If you or someone you know would appreciate a communion, hospital or home visit; to be contacted; or to receive a card in the mail.
- To add or remove a name from the Prayer List.

## ***Prayer List***

Michele Bajor

Gail Brown

Dee Burlingame

Linda Craley, daughter-in-law of  
Dick and Jetty Zarfos

Nancy Dandino

Mark Evan

Pete Inkrott

Family & Friends of Matthew McKelvey

Jay Millard, son of John & Judy Millard

Kathy Ocker, friend of Lisa & Pastor Eric Olsen

Family & Friends of Warren Russell

Stephanie Sebastyn, friend of Carolyn Winemiller

Darren Thomsen, son of John & Tricia Thomsen

Lola Troost, friend & client of Terrie Ulmer

Jessica Uebel, cousin of Adele Smith

Dorothy Wolfe, cousin of Adele Smith

